

April 2008

Because Knowledge Is Power

With over 5,000 local agencies, the structure and processes of California's public sector can confuse even informed citizens. The Committee's *citizens guides* cut confusion and make government more accessible. These short reports answer the most common questions about local governments' powers and duties

Please follow the ordering instructions on the reverse side.

Revenues and Responsibilities: An Inventory of Local Tax Powers. The first-ever comprehensive and annotated inventory of the tax powers of counties, cities, and special districts covers 19 pages and three detailed tables. December 2007. Report 1414-S. #3.77.

Governments Working Together: A Citizen's Guide to Joint Powers Agreements. This 34-page report answers nearly a dozen frequently asked questions about JPAs. August 2007. Report 1404-S. \$8.08.

The Quick List: An Annotated Glossary of Local Government Statutes. The Committee's staff got tired of looking up the same answers to the same questions, so we wrote them down. Find citations and short descriptions of 60 state laws that affect local governments. April 2006. Report 1353-S. \$3.23.

Assessing The Benefits Of Benefit Assessments (Second Edition). How do special assessments work in California? This 22-page report explains the differences between assessments and taxes, answering the most common questions about benefit assessments. December 2004. Report 801-S. \$3.23.

It's Time To Draw The Line: A Citizen's Guide to Local Agency Formation Commissions (Second Edition). What's a LAFCO? Who controls the boundaries of cities and special districts? In a 35-page report, readers learn about LAFCOs, boundary changes, and spheres of influence. May 2003. Report 872-S. \$3.50.

What's So Special About Special Districts? (Third Edition). The short answer is "focused service." Because most Californians don't understand special districts, this 18-page report sorts out the facts and emerging trends about the 3,400 local agencies that affect our daily lives. February 2002. Report 583-S. \$3.23.

Parks, Progress, and Public Policy. More than 90 recreation and park districts rely on the Recreation and Park District Law for their policies, powers, and procedures. In addition to reprinting the new Law's actual text, this document includes authoritative commentary on each section, plus a source table and a disposition table that show where the new Law's language came from and where the substance of the old statute went. This 140-page report also explains the legislative history of SB 707. October 2001. Report 1112-S. \$6.73.

Science, Service, and Statutes. California's 46 mosquito abatement districts protect the public health by battling mosquitoes, rodents, and other vectors that spread human diseases. The Legislature rewrote the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law in 2002 (SB 1558). This 121-page document reprints the new statute and gives authoritative commentary on each section, including detailed source and disposition tables. September 2003. Report 1226-S. \$6.20

For Years To Come. For nearly a century, public cemetery districts have served California communities with respectful and cost-effective interments. The 253 cemetery districts look to the new Public Cemetery District Law (SB 341) for their policies, powers, and procedures. The Committee's 119-page report reprints the actual text and provides authoritative commentary on each section, including detailed source and disposition tables. August 2004. Report 1268-S. \$6.20.

Community Needs, Community Services. For over a half-century, community services districts have delivered the facilities and services that their constituents want. More than 300 CSDs serve neighborhoods, rural towns, and sprawling suburbs. The Committee's 156-page report explains how SB 135 (Kehoe, 2005), thoroughly revised the "Community Services District Law," including detailed source and disposition tables. March 2006. Report 1348-S. \$7.27.



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[Revised: April 9, 2008]